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bridge for supporting persons performing work on the bridge portion and for collecting debris resulting from the work, the platform comprising:

a) a plurality of cables extending along said bridge and in spaced relation to each other and in a plane substantially parallel to the plane of said bridge deck;

b) means at each end of said cables for securing said cables to said bridge so that the plane of the cables is at a desired distance below the bridge portion;

c) a floor comprising a plurality of flooring panels each extending transversely of said cables and resting on said cables, each of said panels having at least one means defining an opening therein; and

d) means for releasably securing said flooring panels to said cables so that said flooring panels are individually removable from said floor and so that the platform may be repeatedly assembled and disassembled, said releasably securing means including a member extending through each of said opening means and having a portion which is shaped to define with said respective panel an eyelet, said opening means being sized for passage therethrough of said eyelet portion, and said cables passing through respective ones of said eyelets.

Claim ~~24~~ (twice amended). A method for supporting persons performing work on a portion of a bridge comprising installing a platform below a deck of the bridge and supporting the persons on the platform, the step of installing the platform comprising the sub-steps of:

a) securing a plurality of cables to the bridge so that the cables extend along the bridge in spaced relation to each other and in a plane substantially parallel to the bridge deck at a selected distance below the bridge portion;

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b) erecting a floor on the cables, the step of erecting the floor comprising resting on the cables a plurality of flooring panels each having at least one opening therein so that the flooring panels extend transversely of the cables; and

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d) releasably securing the flooring panels to the cables so that said flooring panels are individually removable from said floor and so that the platform may be repeatedly assembled and disassembled, said sub-step of releasably securing the flooring panels including passing through each of the openings a second portion of a member which is shaped to form with said respective panel an openable eyelet so that a first portion of the member is at least partially received in the respective opening, receiving the cables in the eyelets respectively while the eyelets are open, and attaching the first member portions to the panels respectively to close the eyelets.

Remarks

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached version is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made in Amendment."

The rejections of claims 2 to 14 are rendered moot by the cancellation thereof.

Each of the pending claims 15 to 26 has been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as not being patentable over claims 1 to 13 of U.S. patent 6,135,240 in view of U.S. patent 2,198,960 to Deck. Enclosed is a terminal disclaimer, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) and the fee therefor, which will overcome this rejection. It is accordingly respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Each of the pending claims 15 to 26 has also been rejected

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